ON THE GRAND

On the Grand is a quarterly publication distributed by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member-municipalities and other interested persons and groups. It contains capsule news items concerning Conservation Authority programs and projects throughout the valley. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.

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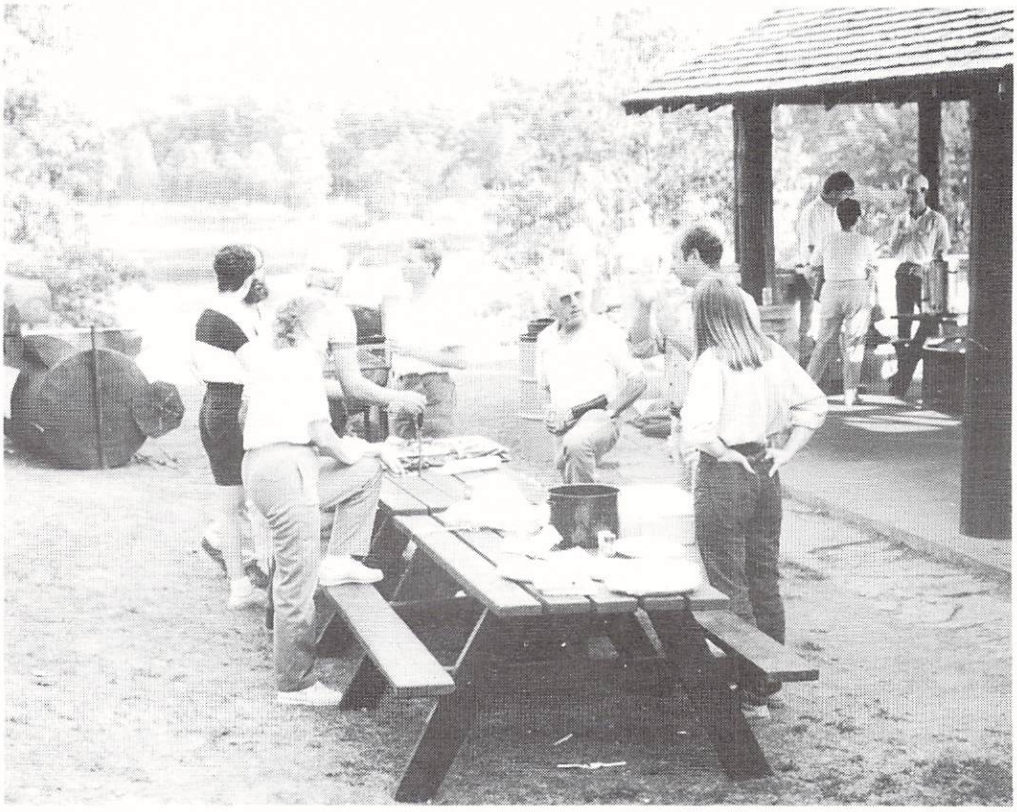


Grand River Conservation Authority and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff held a Co-operators Barbecue on August 14 at Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area. Invited guests included farmers who have worked with the Conservation Authority and Ministry Joint Soil and Water Conservation programs over the years.

"Grand River Reflections" Approaches Publication

"Grand River Reflections" will be available at your bookstore soon. This impressive collection of photographs by the nationally acclaimed photographer John de Visser reflects the rich natural and cultural life in the Grand River valley.

Retailing for $60.00, this book should be available in early November. All proceeds from the sale of "Grand River Reflections" will help fund the projects of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.

New Staff Appointments

There have been a number of staff changes in the Communications Section since the summer issue of On The Grand. After 15 years as the assistant Superintendent at Shade's Mills Conservation Area, **Jim Reid** has been appointed Communications Officer, where his responsibilities include writing, audio-visual production, and responding to information requests.

At the Nature Centres, **Lina Radziunas** has been appointed Resource Interpreter (Contract) at the Taquanyah Nature Centre, after working for a number of years at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre. **Dan Schneider**, the Resource Interpreter at the Guelph Lake Intrepretive Centre has taken a Leave of Absence until May 31, 1990. Also at the Guelph Lake Interpretive Centre, **Greg Meredith** and **Duane Brown** have been appointed Resource Interpreters (Contract).

Snyder Flats Rehabilitation

In conjunction with the Preston Sand and Gravel Company, the Grand River Conservation Authority is rehabilitating the 96 hectare property on the Grand River near Bloomingdale. This four phase project, which will create several aquatic and terrestrial environments, will take approximately three years to complete.

During Phase I a cool water pond will be developed that will promote plant growth and a wide range of shoreline habitats. The pond will also be stocked with cool water fish species native to the area.

During Phase II and III, floodplain pools, which once existed in the Snyder Flats area, will be recreated to bring back wetland or marsh habitat. This rehabilitated habitat will support numerous amphibians, shoreline birds, fish, invertebrates and plants.

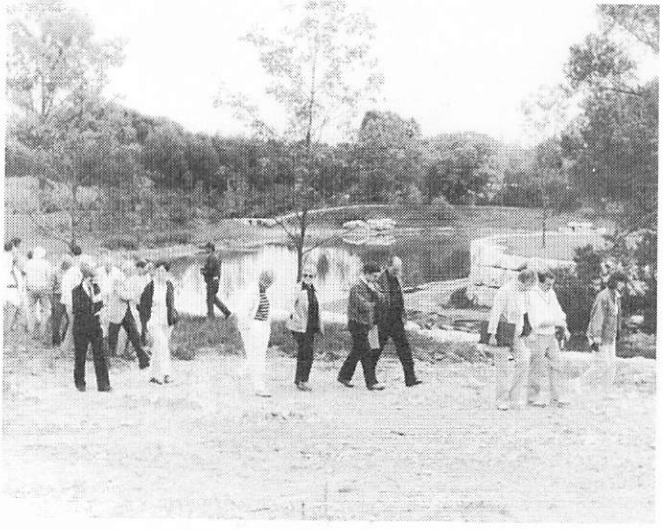
Phase IV will see the completion of a 6.2 hectare warm water pond with an average temperature above 20° C. Water from the new floodplain pools will flow through this pond and support a large spawning area for Northern Pike, Sunfish, and Large and Smallmouth Bass.

The Snyder Flats Rehabilitation Plan is a vital project that restores important habitat to our Grand River ecosystem.

Members Tour Held September 13

The Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership met on September 13 for a tour attended by 31 members and a number of guests. According to Assistant General Manager Ken Thomson, the tour of projects in the Waterloo Region showcased, "examples of the comprehensive range of activities through which the Conservation Authority is attempting to achieve integrated resource management throughout the watershed."

Following are a selection of photos taken during the tour.

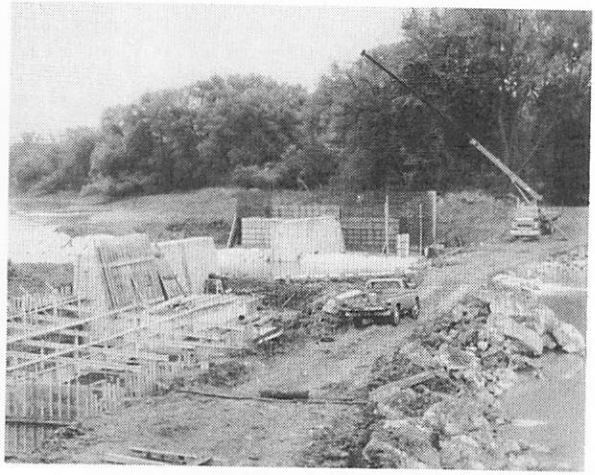


The River Oaks Subdivision in Waterloo is an excellent example of urban storm water management, and rehabilitation of a mined out gravel pit to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Members survey the Snyder Flats Area, where the Conservation Authority and Preston Sand and Gravel, with technical support from the Ministry of Natural Resources, is rehabilitating flood plain gravel areas for wildlife habitat improvement.

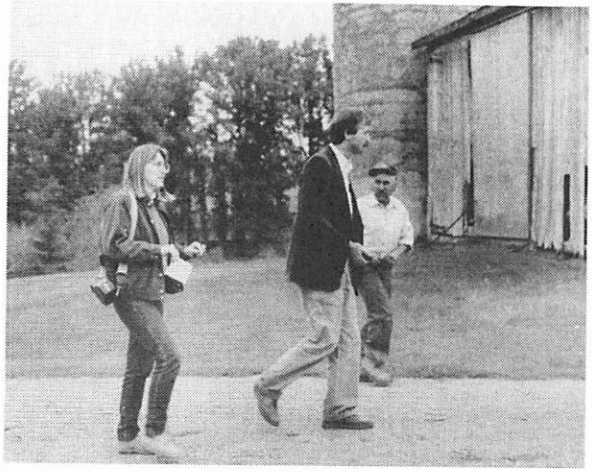
Trees planted at Snyder Flats will help to reduce the water temperature in the Cool Water Pond.

On the Nith River, the New Hamburg Dam reconstruction work involves replacement of the deteriorated mill dam, and installation of a fish ladder to allow fish migration. New Hamburg is using the project as an opportunity to develop park facilities on lands adjacent to the dam.



(above) Members view the controlled river crossing for cattle at Mr. Henderson's farm, which is designed to limit streambank erosion and improve water quality.

(below) Chairman of the Community Relations Advisory Board Clara Marett, Authority Chairman James Bauer, and Mayor of the City of Waterloo, Brian Turnbull on the new Laurel Creek Walking Trail, constructed by the Conservation Authority in co-operation with the City of Waterloo.



(above) Ron Henderson guides Assistant General Manager Ken Thomson and Agricultural Water Quality Advisor Tracey Ryan (right to left) around his farm in Oxford County. Mr. Henderson has been a co-operator in a program to improve water quality by constructing a manure and wastewater holding tank as part of the Rural Beaches Program.

Conservation Areas

In 1989, the Conservation Authority again focussed on increased security in our Conservation Areas, to provide for a more enjoyable stay for our park visitors. Consistent training of security staff, with an emphasis on the early detection of potential problems, managed to keep many occurrences from becoming situations where evictions or charges resulted.

As in previous years, the three main areas of concern were associated with noise, trespassing, and the consumption of alcohol. However, the alcohol ban on the May holiday weekend again set a positive tone for the whole recreational season.

Although Conservation Area attendance was down about 9% over the watershed, a record number of visitors camped at Conestogo Lake this summer. Assistant Superintendent Dean McFadden attributed this increase to Interpretive Programs on the weekends, improved maintenance procedures, and a positive article covering the area in the Toronto Star.

In a related public security and safety matter, the Conservation Authority presented "The Drowning Machine" exhibit at the Caledonia Fair. This display included a videotape illustrating the dangers associated with the undertows at low head dams, several of which exist in the Grand River. Three people have drowned in the last three years at the dam in Caledonia, and this videotape was very topical at the local Fair. A 16mm film or videotape of "The Drowning Machine" can be borrowed free of charge by contacting the Communications Section of the Authority in Cambridge.

Weekend Programs At The Nature Centres

Fall programs at our four Nature Centres are in full swing. The Sunday programs at Laurel Creek, Guelph Lake, Apps' Mill and Taquanyah are free of charge and remain popular with visitors of all ages.

Saturday group bookings for a modest fee are also available by phoning your local Centre in advance. These half day programs can be designed to accommodate the particular needs of your group.

Grand Valley Conservation Foundation Memberships

Grand Valley Conservation Foundation is involved in a number of projects to protect and restore the environment in the Grand River watershed. In the past the Foundation has helped to fund the Apps' Mill and Laurel Creek Nature Centres, Conservancy Forests, and the F.W.R. Dickson Wilderness Area.

The Foundation also funds the Marcel Pequegnat Scholarship, awarded annually to a deserving student enrolled in a resource management oriented program, at one of our three major watershed universities.

By becoming a member of the Foundation, your donation is an integral

part of the Foundation's work. Information on the different types of memberships, ranging from Corporate to Individual and Family, as well as Student and Senior, is available from the Communications Section in Cambridge.

Join now, to help to build a strong foundation for conservation of the environment in the Grand River watershed.

Cambridge Flood Control Works

Grand River - East Bank Below Main Street

The Flood Control Work in downtown Cambridge has been one of the Conservation Authority's major projects since 1974, to help reduce the risk of flooding.

Following its work on the west bank of the Grand River from Blair Road to Main Street, Wellington Construction has been awarded a contract for $347,000 for work on the east bank. This construction takes the form of a concrete wall to floodproof this section of downtown Cambridge. This stage of floodproofing on the east bank will take place south of Main Street on those properties where access agreements have been negotiated.

Brantford Flood Control Works

Grand River - Morrison Road to Locks Road

The first section of the 1989 Brantford Flood Control Work is now complete.

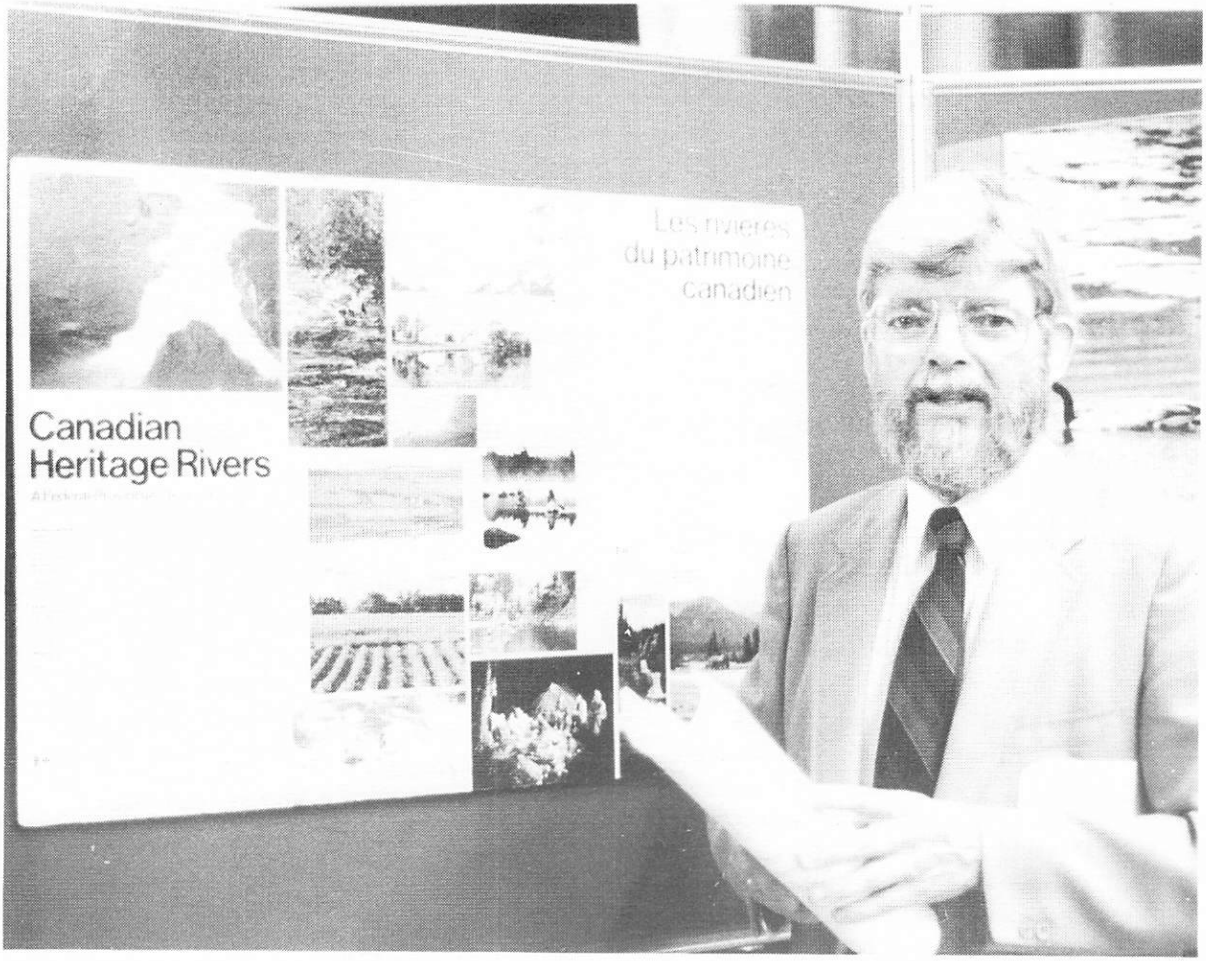
The Schaefer contract included the construction of dykes from the Lorne Bridge to the Brantford Southern Access Road, as well as the removal of the Lorne Dam.

The second 1989 Brantford Flood Control contract has just been awarded to Kast Engineering and Construction of Brantford. This 1.09 million dollar contract will complete earth dikes from Morrison Road to Locks Road. As part of this work, a new structure will be constructed on the Mohawk Canal outlet into the Grand River. As well, the City of Brantford is extending Morrison Road into the landfill site in this area of the city.

George B. Kenney

The Conservation Authority was saddened to learn that former member George B. Kenney passed away on Tuesday, October 3, 1989. He had been General Manager and Vice-President of Waterloo Mutual for 10 years, retiring in 1974. He was a director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Social Resources Council, and a recipient of the Canadian Centennial Medal (1967) from the Government of Canada for outstanding service to the nation.

Following the May 1974 Flood on the Grand River, he was Co-ordinator of Claims Settlements on behalf of the Region of Waterloo. He was also a member of the Grand River Conservation Authority from 1974-76 and 1981-88. In 1975 and 1976 he was a member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of what was then known as the Information and Education Advisory Board.



Dr. Gordon Nelson, from the Heritage Resources Centre of the University of Waterloo, is heading the research team undertaking The Grand River Heritage Study. As a final stage in the preparation of the nomination document, an Open House will be held on Monday, November 13 at 7:00 pm, at the Conservation Authority Administration Centre at 400 Clyde Road in Cambridge. All interested members of the public are invited to attend.